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NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE EXPANDS RAPIDLY UNDER CCP LEADERSHIP

[Agriculture is rapidly expanding in the Northeast under CCP leadership. Crop acreage in 1950 equaled the all-time high of 17,860,000 hectares for 1943. Work animals in 1948 numbered over half a million less than 1943. By 1950 the number exceeded that of 1943. Food production rose from 13,200,000 tons in 1949 to 18,080,000 tons in 1950, or 99.48 percent of 1943 production. Production per hectare rose from 1,615 catties in 1946 to 2,412 catties in 1950, an increase of 13.93 percent over the 1943 figures.

In 1950 the area under cotton was 97.3 percent over 1949; in 1951, it was 91.9 percent over 1950. The soybean area also increased in 1950 and in 1951. Cloth consumption by peasants rose from 4 million bolts in 1949 to 9,020,000 bolts in 1950, or 12 times the 1947 consumption. Purchases of agricultural production materials in some areas rose from 10.7-19 percent of total purchase in 1949 to 23-35.5 percent in 1950.

There is now in the Northeast a preponderance of middle-class farmers, running from 50 to 70 percent of the agricultural population. Practically no poor farmers remain.

New-style wealthy peasants are already appearing. This latter development is inevitable at a certain stage in the revolutionary development from feudalistic society to collectivized agriculture. It need cause no apprehension. The peasants are being led from a disjointed farm economy by way of mutual-aid teams and cooperatives to collectivization.

Use of women power in the fields is resulting in the release of hundreds of thousands of men for urban industrial activities. Crop pest and animal disease control and introduction of modern machinery are greatly benefiting agricultural production. A new mass production farm machinery plant will soon be supplying all machinery needs. Production in 1951 reached 98 percent of plans. State farms number 542. Farm production cooperatives enrolled 32.9 percent of farm families in 1951.

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SURVEYS NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jin-pao, 28 Nov 51

According to a special correspondent of this paper, Northeast agriculture is making rapid strides under Chinese Communist leadership.

In 1943 [considered top year for agricultural production in the Northeast], crop acreage was 17,860,000 hectares. In 1946, it was only 13,140,000. By 1950, acreage had been restored to the 1943 figure. Work animals in 1943 numbered 4,270,000; in 1948, they numbered 3,760,000. By 1950, they greatly outnumbered the 1943 figures.

In 1949, food production was 13,200,000 tons and in 1950, 18,080,000 tons, an increase of 37 percent. This was 99.48 percent of 1943 production. Some areas exceeded 1943 production. In 1946, average food production per hectare was 1,615 catties and in 1950, 2,412 catties, an increase of 13.93 percent over 1943 figures. Food production in Su-lan Hsien in Kirin Province in 1943 was 139,566 tons; in 1950 it was 166,568 tons, an increase over 1943 of 19.48 percent.

The area under cotton in 1950 was 97.3 percent over 1949; in 1951 the area was 91.9 percent over 1950. The soybean area in 1950 was 28.17 percent over 1949; in 1951, it was 6.47 percent over 1950.

In Heilungkiang in 1950, the value of the output of supplementary agricultural activities was the equivalent of 920,000 tons of food; the estimate for 1951 is 1,100,000 tons.

The peasants' standard of living has steadily risen. In 1949, the state stores sold 4 million bolts of cloth and in 1950, 9,020,000 bolts, which was 12 times the consumption for 1947. The peasants' purchasing capacity in 1950 was 133 percent of that of 1949. In 1949, one bolt of cloth was sold for each 14 persons; in 1950, one bolt for each 4½ persons. Cooperative sales for the first quarter of 1950. Cooperative sales amounted to 40 percent of total sales in the area. In K'o-shan Hsien, Heilungkiang, in 1949, purchases of agricultural production materials were 10.7 percent of total purchases; in 1950, 23 percent. In Hu-lan Hsien, Sungkiang Province, production materials purchases in 1950 rose from 19 percent of total purchases to 35.5 percent.

A basic fact to be noted in agricultural expansion in the Northeast is that there is now a preponderance of middle-class farmers. In the earlier liberated areas of North Manchuria, they constitute 60-70 percent of the farmers and in the more recently liberated areas of South Manchuria they run over 50 percent. New-style rich peasants also have appeared among them. Most hired and poor farmers have become middle class. Most of the remainder are making progress in that direction. A few, through lack of labor power, illness, catastrophe, or shiftlessness have fallen in the economic scale, but the total trend is definitely upward.

Land reform is not the sole cause of improved economic conditions. After land reform the farm economy was a scattered, individualistic, small farm economy. As Stalin has stated, they stood "at the crossroads of capitalistic and socialistic economy"; they could go either way. (cited from Socialistic Economic Construction, Liberation Company Edition, Vol II, page 38). There is manifestly no chance for the Northeast peasant economy to go capitalistic. Under the leadership of the party, the government, and the city workers, it is moving upward and toward unity with the city workers. It follows the path of the new people's democracy.

During the land-reform period and the period of liberation struggle, the agricultural economy split up. Manpower was lacking and much land went fallow. The party has put forth great efforts to promote the mutual-aid-team system in

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order to overcome the effects of this situation. It has put forth vigorous educational propaganda to seek to avoid either the extreme of authoritarianism on the one hand or that of laissez faire on the other. Various aberrant theories have appeared, such as the idea of an "average" individualistic peasant economy designed as a socialistic approach that would prevent capitalistic tendencies. The proposal heard in some quarters for a "common pot" is a reflection of these erroneous theories. Actually, in an expanding economy the emergence of a new class of wealthy peasants cannot be avoided, nor should it cause apprehension.

There has appeared in the Northeast mutual-aid-team movement a tendency to try to compel people to join the teams by a policy of boycott of those who prefer to operate individually (in the Northeast, a farmer operating individually requires two or three horses), but the party has insisted that, as Comrade Mao has taught, membership in mutual-aid teams must be wholly voluntary, and has put forth much effort to educate the people along this line. However, at the same time, the government each year has made liberal agricultural loans to the organized peasants. Statistics for 1950 reveal 70-80 percent of all farm families as members of the cooperatives, or more than 4 million families. According to Lenin, an individualistic economy is very wasteful and all encouragement and support should be given to cooperative activities. Hence, in the Northeast it is the duty of the party to actively support the rural cooperatives in their efforts to develop a new type of peasant economy.

It is also apparent that what has already been accomplished in the unification of the scattered agrarian economy has been brought about by the working class and their forerunners, the Communist Party, and not by any other class. It is also evident that the agricultural revival and the rapid opening up of vast areas of new land that has been accomplished during a few short years would have been impossible without the rural cooperatives and mutual-aid teams. In the Northeast, plowing requires from two to six horses. Without pooling of resources [in mutual-aid teams], it is very difficult to get this plowing done.

Introduction of women power into agricultural operations has greatly increased the labor force and released many men to enter urban industrial plants. Comrade Mao has said, "In China the agriculturists were the forerunners of the industrial workers. In the future, scores of millions of farmers will enter the urban industries. If China is to construct a great national industrial economy and build modern cities, it will require a long range transmutation of farmers into city dwellers." (Discussion of Coalition Government, Liberation Press Edition, page 79.)

The experience of the Wang-chen-t'ang mutual-aid team in Heilingsiang is a good example of the economic advantages of the mutual-aid program. The amount of land operated by this mutual aid team expanded steadily year after year, from 64.5 hectares in 1947 to 272 hectares in 1951. In 1947, the group had ten horses; in 1951 it had 76. The number of its work cattle grew from six in 1947 to 27 in 1951. In 1947, the group produced 180 shih of grain, and in 1950, 1,359 shih [1 shih equals 103.5 liters]. The whole village of 32 families made an economic advance during the period, with no retrogressions.

In the matter of reform of agricultural techniques, great advances are being made. Over half a million antirenderpest inoculations were given to cattle in 1949, and over one million in 1950. Nearly 4½ million inoculations for anthrax were given in 1950. At present, disease epidemics among work animals have practically been eliminated.

Since 1950, a new progressive policy on farm equipment has been adopted. An appropriation of several tens of thousands of tons of grain has been made

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for the construction of an agricultural machinery factory in 1952 which will be able to turn out in mass quantity the newest types of farm implements to aid in stepping up production.

Food control, irrigation, and drainage are projects in which the party and government in Northeast China are much interested. Protective afforestation, as now planned as a 12-year project, will result in a protective belt of trees from 30 to 50 meters wide every 10 kilometers on an area of 6,300,000 hectares.

What are the lessons to be learned from the increase of agricultural production in the Northeast?

1. Only the working class, under the leadership of the party, has been able to free the peasant masses from the shackles of feudalism and set their feet on the road to high agricultural production.
2. Since the land reform, only the working class and its political party have been able to lead the peasantry step by step along the path from mutual-aid teams through cooperatives toward collectivization. This is the only road to steady expansion of agricultural production.
3. Only urban industrial expansion can create and improve the conditions for technological advance in agriculture; only nationalization of industry can push forward agricultural modernization.
4. Only by scrupulously carrying out the party's economic policy, particularly the price and taxation policies, can rural-urban mutual benefits be realized and labor-peasant unity be promoted.
5. Only by industrial and agricultural expansion can the people's livelihood be improved, the cultural level elevated, and the power of the people's democratic government stabilized.

Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 22 Apr 52

The People's Planning Commission for the Northeast has reported that, in spite of both drought and flood during 1951, agricultural production in Northeast China reached 98 percent of that planned for and exceeded 1950 production by 3.3 percent.

Mutual-aid teams and agricultural production cooperatives were greatly multiplied. There are now 456,106 year-round mutual-aid teams, which are 49.3 percent of all mutual-aid teams in the region.

Production cooperatives have enrolled 2,188,145 farm families. This represents 32.9 percent of all agricultural families.

There are 542 state-operated farms which had a 41.3-percent increase in planted acreage in 1951 over 1950. This acreage represents one percent of the total planted acreage of the area. Of these state farms, 19 are more than 80 percent mechanized. They cultivated a total of 65,000 hectares in 1951.

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